

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 01063 161149Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PC-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W

-----161153Z 062133 /21/46

P R 111428Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6513

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1063

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 5 LINE 2 ADDED

CAPETWO FOR EMBASSY

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 01063 161149Z

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, GH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: SITHOLE VISIT TO ACCRA

REF: A. DAKAR 0820, B. ABIDJAN 1382 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY CONTINUING HIS WEST COAST TOUR, SITHOLE

IS CURRENTLY IN ACCRA WHERE HE MET WITH HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG FEBRUARY 10. FEBRUARY 11 "TIMES" AND "GRAPHIC" CARRIED REPORTS OF MEETINGS ALONG WITH ACHEAMPONG'S REITERATION OF NEED FOR UNITED FRONT IN ZIMBABWE. PRESS INDICATES ACHEAMPONG SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS IN CONCERT WITH HIS OAU COLLEAGUES TO ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNITY FOR PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. END SUMMARY

2. MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11 SITHOLE VISITED CHANCERY TO SEE ME. HE SAID HE WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT CURRENT US POLICY ON RHODESIA AND INDICATED AT THE OUTSET THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED BY SECRETARY'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT RHODESIA COULD EXPECT NO HELP FROM THE US. I POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS CONCLUDING THIS VISIT TO NIGERIA TODAY AND THAT UNDOUBTEDLY WASHINGTON WOULD WANT TO HAVE HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION BEFORE ANY FURTHER DECISIONS WERE MADE. IN THE MEANTIME, I ADDED, WE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT STRONGLY THE BRITISH EFFORTS RE ZIMBABWE. SITHOLE NODDED IN AGREEMENT BUT ADDED THAT THE US MUST EXERT "MORE PRESSURE" AND THAT IT MUST DO SO NOW BECAUSE OF THE VERY REAL DANGER OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. "THAT'S WHAT I FEAR" HE ADDED. HE CLAIMS THE SOVIETS ARE READY TO BACK NKOMO AND ONCE THE LATTER IS IN POWER INTERNAL OPPOSITION. SITHOLE SAID HE HAD VISITED LUANDA IN DECEMBER AND SAW FOR HIMSELF THAT THE CUBANS ARE IN "COMPLETE CONTROL." HE DOES NOT WANT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ACCRA 01063 161149Z

THAT TO HAPPEN IN ZIMBABWE.

3. WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ENDORSEMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS TOUR IS FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF LOBBYING AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE IN OPPOSITION TO THIS MOVE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED BY ACHEAMPONG BUT THAT THE HEAD OF STATE HAD SENT FOR HIM AND, IN FACT, HAD "PROMISED TO WRITE" OTHER AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE IN SUPPORT OF UNITY FOR ZIMBABWEAN FACTIONS. BUT ACHEAMPONG ALSO CAUTIONED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE TO IGNORE THE DECISION OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES.

4. WITH REGARD TO RENEWAL OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, SITHOLE BELIEVES THIS POSSIBLE IF THE US EXERTS "ENOUGH PRESSURE." HE POINTED OUT THAT HE AND OTHER ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS HAD NOT WANTED TO SIT DOWN WITH SMITH BEFORE BUT HAD DONE SO AT THE BIDDING OF THE

FRONT-LINE STATES "FROM WHERE WE OPERATE." HE
BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD DO SO AGAIN IF ENOUGH
PRESSURE WERE PUT ON THEM.

5. SITHOLE PLANS DEPART ACCRA EVENING FEBRUARY 12
FOR LAGOS VIA A BRIEF STAY IN CAMEROON. HE SAID
HE HAD BEEN ADVISED TO DELAY HIS VISIT TO LAGOS
UNTIL FESTAC WAS OVER. IN REFERENCE TO LAGOS, HE
NOTED THAT HE THOUGHT GHANA AND NIGERIA WERE
WORKING TOGETHER CLOSELY ON THE ZIMBABWEAN PROBLEM.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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